

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A bag formed of a sheet material comprising a plastically deformable wire-like member attached along a lateral edge thereof, the wire-like member being disposed inside a fused joint of a folded back hem seal formed along the lateral edge.

Claim 2 (Original): A bag formed of a sheet material comprising a plastically deformable wire-like member attached along a lateral edge thereof, the lateral edge having a hem seal formed by heat sealing, and the wire-like member being disposed inside the fused joint of the hem seal with a non-fused portion left between the wire-like member and the surrounding fused portion of the hem seal.

Claim 3 (Original): The bag according to claim 1, wherein the joint has formed therein a tubular holder for holding a wire-like member, and the wire-like member is inserted in the holder.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~The bag according to claim 1, wherein the bag is a~~ A gusset bag comprising a pair of main faces and a pair of inward folding side faces and being adapted to be opened at the top for taking out the contents while self-standing, wherein a deformable vertical wire-like member is vertically attached along each lateral edge that is an intersection of adjacent main and side faces over a length from an output opening side portion to a body portion of the gusset bag.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The gusset bag according to claim 4, wherein the vertical wire-like member is attached to each of the side faces along each lateral edge, and a

lateral wire-like member is laterally attached to each of the side faces to substantially form the shape of an inverted angular “U” together with the pair of the vertical wire-like members.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The gusset bag according to claim 4, wherein at least one of the main faces is provided with a cutting guide line along which an upper part of the gusset bag is adapted to be cut off, the cutting guide line intersecting with the vertical wire-like members, and the vertical wire-like members are adapted to be cut off along the cutting guide line.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The gusset bag according to claim 4, wherein a projection for creating a level difference is provided across the centerline of each of the side faces below an upper end output opening.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The gusset bag according to claim 4, wherein each of the side faces has a vertical fin-like rib projecting on the outer side thereof along the centerline thereof, the rib being formed by folding a narrow longitudinal area symmetric about the center line to make a mountain fold on the outer surface of the side face along the centerline and adhering the facing inner sides of the folded narrow area.

Claim 9 (Original): The bag according to claim 1 which is obtained by a method comprising the steps of forming a tubular holder for holding a wire-like member in the inner side of the lateral edge and inserting the wire-like member in the tubular holder.

Claim 10 (Original): The bag according to claim 9, which has a wire-like member-absent portion between the upper end of the tubular holder and the upper end of the bag.

Claim 11 (Original): The bag according to claim 10, which is obtained by a method comprising the steps of:

forming the tubular holder with the wire-like member-absent portion,
positioning the wire-like member above the upper end of the tubular holder and along the lateral edge, and
moving down and inserting the positioned wire-like member into the tubular holder.

Claim 12 (Original): The bag according to claim 11, wherein the method further comprises the step of sealing the part above the tubular holder and/or the opening of the tubular holder to seal in the wire-like member.

Claim 13 (Original): The bag according to claim 1, which is obtained by a method comprising the steps of:

disposing a non-magnetic tube having a magnetic wire-like member inserted therein along the inside corner of the lateral edge while holding open the inside corner,

drawing only the tube from the inside corner while holding the wire-like member in place by means of a magnet set outside of the lateral edge, and

heat sealing the lateral edge from the outside to form a hem seal along the lateral edge thereby to fix the wire-like member inside the fused joint of the hem seal.

Claim 14 (Original): The bag according to claim 1, which is obtained by a method comprising the steps of:

forming an open-topped tubular holder inside the fused joint,

inserting the wire-like member in the tubular holder, and

heat sealing the upper end opening of the tubular holder.

Claim 15 (Original): The bag according to claim 1, wherein the wire-like member is covered with a resin.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A detergent package comprising a powdered or granular detergent packed in the bag or the gusset bag according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 15~~ claim 1.